

House Resolution 856

By: Representatives Day of the 163rd, Ralston of the 7th, Keen of the 179th, Harbin of the 118th, Jamieson of the 28th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the first week of April each year as "Living Will Week" in Georgia; and for
2 other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, life-and-death situations confront thousands of persons within the State of
4 Georgia each year due to life-threatening illness or injury; and

5 WHEREAS, personal and family values should determine the degree to which a person
6 would want to endure the burdens and hardships of medical treatment or application of
7 life-sustaining procedures; and

8 WHEREAS, the preparation of a Living Will, also known as an Advance Directive, would
9 advise family members, medical providers, and other persons of how an individual would
10 want to be treated in certain crisis situations; and

11 WHEREAS, physicians, other health care providers, clergy, legal counsel, and family
12 members should, or may, provide guidance and insight into determining the final wishes of
13 a person when the Living Will is being prepared; and

14 WHEREAS, to avoid any legal or medical confusion due to the emotions from end of life
15 decisions, it is in the best interest of all Georgians that each person over the age of 18 should
16 communicate his or her wishes by creating a Living Will; and

17 WHEREAS, the designation of the first week of April of each year as "Living Will Week"
18 will give honor and respect to all persons as they make critical decisions about the end of
19 their life and allow death with dignity according to their own decision.

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
21 GEORGIA that the first week of April of each year is designated as "Living Will Week" in
22 Georgia and the members of this body encourage the citizens of Georgia to prepare a Living

1 Will, also known as an Advance Directive, to assist surviving family members, medical
2 professionals, and others as they honor the final wishes of a person in a moment of crisis.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of this body encourage medical, civic,
4 educational, religious, and other nonprofit organizations to encourage individuals to prepare
5 Living Wills to ensure that each person's wishes and rights are protected.